

REMARKS

Claims 1-66 are pending.

Reconsideration in light of the following is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. (US Patent No. 5,723,865).

Trissel is cited as disclosing an image storage panel comprising a binderless needle-shaped stimulable phosphor with reference to col. 6 line 29. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Trissel discloses a scintillator which directly converts x-radiation to lower wavelength visible radiation. This is clearly distinguishable from an image storage panel which captures the x-radiation until it is later released in response to optical stimulation. The rejection of claim 1-6 is improper due to the failure of Tissel to recite an image storage panel.

Trissel is cited as having a reflectivity of more than 98% with reference to col. 5 line 38. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Trissel describes a scintillation screen specifically for use in mammography. Greater than 98% of the x-rays striking the scintillator assembly pass through the polycarbonate sheet and the aluminum coating and are absorbed by the CsI crystals. The Office has apparently interpreted 98% transmittance of the support layers with 98% reflectivity. This is improper. A transmittance of 98% would correspond to a total absorbance/reflectance of 2%. The rejection is improperly based on a misinterpretation of Trissel with regards to the reflectivity.

For the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. is improper and traversed. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. in view of Kano et al. (US Patent No. 4,741,993).

Trissel is cited as disclosing the image storage screen as claimed in claim 1-6. Applicants have traversed this position

in response to the rejection of claims 1-6 and all comments presented therein are equally relavent here. In summary, Trissel fails to recite both a storage screen and a support with a reflectivity of 98%.

Kano et al. is cited as reciting the specific phosphor composition which is otherwise lacking in Trissel. Even if the phosphor of Kano et al. were combined with the teachings of Trissel et al. the claimed invention would still not be achieved. The combination would lack, at least, a support with 98% reflectivity as set forth in claim 1 and claims dependent thereon by dependence.

The Office states that Trissel and Kano et al. are analogous art. This does not suggest that one could supplant technology from one reference into the other with expectations of success. If one substituted the phosphor of Kano into the scintillator screen of Trissel the results would be disastrous since no signal would be recorded on the film. Likewise, if the phosphor of Trissel were placed in the screen of Kano et al. no image would be recorded in the imager. Therefore, one of skill in the art would readily understand that mere substitution of elements from one technology to another is not necessarily as

easy as indicated by the Office. This substitution would yield an inoperative system and therefore the combination is improper.

The rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. in view of Kano et al. is improper. The combination fails to recite the claimed invention or lead one of skill in the art to the claimed invention. The combination would also not be considered by a skilled artisan since substitution of the phosphor from Kano et al. would render the screen of Trissel et al. useless for the intended purpose.

The rejection is traversed. Withdrawal is earnestly solicited.

Claims 13-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. in view of Kano et al. and further in view of Okada et al. (US Patent Publ. 2002/0162965).

Trissel et al. and Kano et al. are discussed supra and all comments are relavent here.

With regards to claims 13-24 Trissel is cited as disclosing the image storage screen, which is traversed above, but Trissel fails to recite the substrate being a polycarbonate layer overcoated with a reflective layer. As set forth supra Trissel

recites that the substrate has a transmittance of 98%. One of skill in the art would not consider incorporating a reflective layer if a high level of transmittance is desired. The rejection based on the inclusion of Okada et al. is inconsistent with the teachings of Trissel et al. Applicants respectfully submit that the realization that Trissel et al. describes high transmittance, not high reflectance, renders the rejection technically inconsistent and therefore improper.

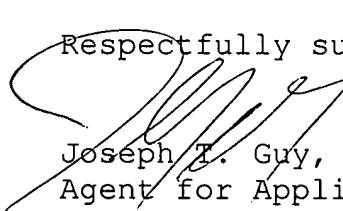
The rejection of claims 13-66 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Trissel et al. in view of Kano et al. and further in view of Okada et al. is traversed due to the technical inconsistencies stemming from an improper reading of Trissel et al. The rejection is traversed and withdrawal is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-66 are pending. All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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